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Dynamo return 'home' to revamped HQ

Hospital parking firm profit scheme slammed

DEAN AND SECRET PARTNER ACCUSED OF SWINDLING EDGE HILL OUT OF £500,000

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A UNIVERSITY dean and his secret partner systematically swindled the institution where they both worked out of £500,000 through bogus invoices, it has been alleged.

Robert Smedley, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Edge Hill University, had recruited Christopher Joynson for a salaried post he created for him.

But he also authorised payments for his invoices for consultancy work on top for five years.

"The defendants were dishonest from the outset," alleged Jacob Dyer, prosecuting.

For most of the time of the alleged fraud Joynson was on the staff at the Ormskirk university and specialising in teacher training. His combined income from his salary and the consultancy work was about £132,000 a year.

Smedley had created the post of Partnership Development Officer for Joynson and said that a Criminal Records Bureau check was not needed as the work did not involve going into schools.

But it did involve such activities and Smedley had been anxious to avoid a CRB check as he knew Joynson had two police cautions, one involving a pecuniary advantage by not telling a school he worked at about his first caution, alleged Mr Dyer.

"Joynson submitted invoices for work for which he was not entitled to be paid and he lied on his job application form. Smedley abused his position in authorising these fraudulent invoices, removing the requirement of a CRB check and failing to disclose his relationship with Joynson."

Christopher Joynson and Robert Smedley

Outlining the case he told the court, "Smedley abused his position as Dean by his involvement in the recruitment and promotion of Joynson and by authorising payment of invoices, which clearly amounted to dishonest claims.

"Unbeknown to anyone at the university the two defendants were in a relationship and Smedley received the benefit of a large proportion of the money fraudulently obtained by Joynson.

"Joynson was not entitled to those consultancy payments as he had either not done the work or, such work as he did, formed part of his employment for which he was already receiving a generous salary," he claimed.

52-year-old Smedley, of Grange Farm Crescent, West Kirby, Wirral, denies five fraud offences.

Joynson, 34, of Clocktower Apartments at Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland, denies four fraud charges.

All the offences faced by the two men allegedly occurred between September 2009 and June 2014.

Mr Dyer has told the jury at Liverpool Crown Court that as well as being Dean and being responsible for financial management of the faculty, Smedley was also Pro Vice Chancellor at the time, an executive role ranking below the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

In June 2014, by which time Joyson's salary was £53,566, the university's Director of Finance reviewed supplier payments and noticed a significant amount to CJ Consultants. Normally the list would include payments over £50,000 but this time he reviewed payments over £10,000.

It was discovered that £20,000 paid to CJ Consultants was going into Joynson's personal account and that he was a salaried member of staff.

The director emailed Smedley querying this and he replied he had approved that work and there had been checks with the taxman and "the consultancy work was different and carried out at weekends, holidays etc."

But by early July it was found that Joynson had been paid £107,015 over three years through the CJ Consultants invoices and further investigation showed that payments had actually been paid for a longer period.

"It was also discovered that he had invoiced the university through another organisation he had set up called Forward Education," said Mr Dyer.

Continued inside

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County cabinet to discuss 'major improvements' to supported bus services

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet are to consider what they describe as "major improvements" to the network of buses supported by the authority.

The council has already committed to make an extra £1m available to bus services, increasing the budget from £2m to £3m.

A report to the cabinet meeting on Thursday (September 14) recommends boosting the authority's support for buses, with proposals for a number of new routes and changes aimed at improving existing tendered services.

The proposed improved routes in West Lancashire are as follows:

Service 337: Chorley - Charnock Richard - Eccleston - Croston - Mawdesley - Parbold - Burscough - Ormskirk.

Service 347: Chorley - Charnock Richard - - Eccleston - Croston - Mawdesley - Rufford - Southport.

Service 315: Ormskirk - Haskayne - Halsall - Shirdley Hill - Southport.

Bus services 337/347 will restore rural village links and improve frequencies across Chorley and West Lancashire to Southport and Ormskirk.

The perceived benefits of this include improved service for Croston and Eccleston, restoring the direct link to Chorley and improved frequency between Mawdesley, Croston, Eccleston and Chorley.

County Councillor Andrew Snowden

Service 337 will additionally serve Burscough Industrial Estate, providing public transport access to this employment area.

The county council will work with bus operators to utilise the funding available to try to develop a sustainable option to restore a daytime service link between Ormskirk, Haskayne, Halsall, Shirdley Hill and Southport.

County Councillor Andrew Snowden, Lancashire's lead member for highways and transport, said: "A good public transport network is vital to support our economy, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to access work and education.

"It also plays a vital role in helping people to carry out everyday tasks such as doing their shopping, visiting family and friends, and getting to health appointments.

"I have invited all county councillors to offer their input on behalf of the communities they represent and raise any issues they are aware of, and we've worked hard to make sure these proposals make the most impact with the resources available.

"This extra funding will make a significant difference by supporting and supplementing the commercial network to link communities which might otherwise have no or very little public transport.

"We are also proposing to hold discussions with bus operators about how we could improve services in some areas where we think the best option is to enhance an existing commercial service."

If agreed, detailed timetables will be developed and all county council-supported services put out for competitive tender, with the revised services proposed to start from December 10.

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Glimmer of hope for residents in five-year battle to eliminate dangerous pathways

AFTER five years of campaigning and three petitions, residents of an Ormskik street have been given hope that a plot of grass near to their homes, which regularly causes floods on adjoining pathways rendering them unsafe, might finally be resolved.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Residents of Sephton Drive on the Scott estate say they have made repeated complaints to West Lancs Council about the grassed area in the centre of a nearby square that regularly 'leaks' causing paving labs on the adjoining paths to dislodge and become a trip hazard.

One of the residents, Ron Sinclair, told the Champion that whenever he contacted the council about the problem he was told there was no money to fix it.

He suggested the area could be tarmacked over and made into a car parking area, solving both the flooding issue and a shortage of parking space in the area.

Referring to the dislodged paving slabs though, he said: "It is really dangerous and that's no exaggeration.

"Recently a pregnant woman tripped and stumbled while walking along there. If she had fallen fully who knows what could have happened.

"Just a few days ago another woman tripped while she was pushing a pram and had a child on her hand."

On the suggestion of creating parking space a spokesperson for West Lancs Council said: "Unfortunately, even where the council does have small pockets of land it is not always possible to provide additional parking provision. It has limited financial resources to address these issues, and also needs to take into account planning considerations

"The council will however arrange for the grass to be trimmed from the edge of the pathway referred to by Mr Sinclair and will install some edging to limit debris and water washing onto the footpath."

The spokesperson added that Mr Sinclair's complaint has been sent to the county council which deals with highway issues.

However, Scott ward representative and portfolio holder for planning, Councillor John Hodson was more hopeful of a solution with possible funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy which (CIL) which allows local authorities to raise funds for local infrastructure developments.

Cllr. Hodson said that a development on nearby Grove Farm will generate "significant" CIL funds and that it is "very likely" that money can be channelled into fixing the troublesome green area, once a Neighbourhood Plan is formulated and the residents are consulted.

Resident Ron Sinclair (centre) points out the troublesome plot to Scott ward councillors Noel Delaney (left) and John Hodson

An example of how the paving slabs are being dislodged by water leaking off the green. Photo: Ron Sinclair

Edge Hill dean and partner accused of swindling university out of £500,000

From Page 1

Between September 2009 and June 2014 Joynson invoiced the university for £513,894 both as CJ Consultants and Forward Education over four financial years.

Mr Dyer said that "no doubt" Joynson had carried out some work on behalf of the university - paid at the top hourly rate - but it was impossible to accurately gauge.

"The prosecution say that Smedley abused his position in authorising payment for this work without any procurement process and without revealing their relationship."

He claimed there was nothing to indicate to the university that Forward Education was connected to Joynson, and the staff who allegedly worked for it did not exist. "It was set up to disguise the fact that large sums of money were being paid to Joynson."

Meanwhile Smedley was instrumental in securing various promotions and pay rises for him despite his lack of experience and poor qualifications, he alleged.

When Smedley resigned in July 2014 he accepted that approving Joynson's consultancy work had been "highly inappropriate."

He accepted he had never asked permission for a full-time employee to deliver additional out of hours work.

In his resignation letter Joynson said he had been advised he only needed to declare convictions not cautions and once employed senior managers were aware of his consultancy work and were supportive and appreciative.

When interviewed by police both men refused to admit they were in a relationship, said Mr Dyer.

The case continues

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County proposes £45m extra cuts

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet are meeting on Thursday, September 14 to consider £45m cuts to services.

The proposed savings would come from more than 30 services, and the county council said they "are not expected to have a negative impact on front line service delivery" as they would come mainly from efficiencies, recurrent underspends, income generation and service changes.

The council's broader financial position, as detailed in an update to the cabinet, remains "extremely challenging" as a combination of inflationary pressures and rising demand means that the authority still faces a funding gap of £167m in 2021/22.

Council leader, County Councillor Geoff Driver, said: "The county council's financial situation is clearly extremely challenging and one of our key priorities is to create a more financially stable council that will enable us to future-proof our improvements to critical services for the most vulnerable in our communities.

"This detailed line-by-line review of all service budgets has identified significant savings and is a very helpful first step to putting the council's finances on an even keel. Clearly we will need to make more savings in the future and we are working very hard to look at how we can do that in a way that allows us to protect front-line services.

"Every council in the country has to make decisions about how it uses its resources and we are absolutely committed to funding those services that we know people value, by reopening libraries, investing in good quality roads and local environments, and supporting bus services."

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Dynamo return 'home' to new improved base

Club will share transformed HQ with other teams and sports in local community

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LOCAL junior football club Burscough Dynamo have their own home ground again - thanks to grant funding totalling £263,000 from West Lancs Council, the Premier League and Sport England.

The club's teams have been forced to play at various venues in the area since their pitch became unplayable due to serious waterlogging issues.

But can now return to the Abbey Lane ground which has undergone a transformation to a multi-sports hub.

Joan Galvin, whose late husband, Thomas, was instrumental in starting junior football in the Burscough area, officially opened the revamped Thomas Galvin Sports Ground, on Sunday (September 10) at a special ceremony attended by West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert and council and club officials.

Thanks to the funding the club has been able to undertake a significant pitch drainage project and install a new state-of-the-art surface which will allow them to deliver more effective training and reduce the number of home game cancellations.

The facility now comprises six full-size pitches, one 9v9 pitch, four mini-soccer pitches and a changing pavilion with clubroom.

Dynamo currently run 22 teams from under-7s to open-age, competing in several local and regional leagues.

And they will be sharing their revamped base with a number of other users including: Digmoor FC, Sacre Coeur FC and Burscough Priory High School.

The site can also accommodate cricket and will be used by a number of local primary schools to hold PE lessons.

It is expected that the overall football participation will increase by 79% at the site with the club planning to establish 11 new teams including girls under-14s and under-16s sides, which will help to boost female football participation at the facility by 122% across all ages.

The club worked in partnership with the Liverpool FA to secure a £98,048 grant from the Premier League & FA Facilities Fund. They also received £65,000 from Sport England's protected playing fields scheme and £100,000 from West Lancs Borough Council.

Burscough Dynamo chairman, Simon Kenyon, said: "I would like to say thanks for the grants. The funding will allow the facility to be used once again mainly for grassroots football, but will also allow us to offer cricket and other sports.

"It will also allow Burscough Dynamo FC to develop its Mini-Soccer, adult football and female football sections, as well as offering holiday activities and other sporting opportunities."

Rosie Cooper commented: "I am delighted to see this investment into Burscough Dynamo. Local young footballers now have good pitches and facilities to improve their skills and fitness.

"Thanks also to Simon Kenyon for his tireless work in the community in making all this possible."

And Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, added: "I am really pleased that the Abbey Lane playing fields are thriving again and that Burscough Dynamo FC and other community clubs have a base they can call home that will be at the heart of the local community.

"The council worked with the club to reach an agreement over the lease and we wish members every success in the future."

Joan Galvin cuts the ribbon officially opening Burscough Dynamo FC's new home at the Thomas Galvin Sports Ground watched by Dynamo chairman Simon Kenyon, West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper, council and club officials and invited guests

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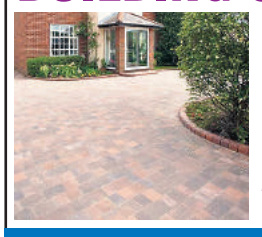

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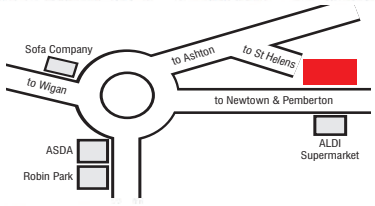

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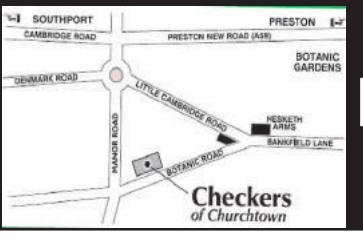

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Labour call for county council EGM and leader's resignation

Report by **Henry James**

LABOUR councillors on Lancashire County Council are calling for Conservative council leader, Councillor Geoff Driver, to resign over what they described as "reckless restructuring of senior management without due consideration of the serious financial implications" on services to the public.

They have said at the last cabinet meeting (on August 10) the Tories used Standing Order 35 to push through their restructuring proposals, avoiding consideration by full council and scrutiny through the call-in procedure.

And they said this followed two previous attempts to "bulldoze" through similar proposals which were ruled illegal and had to be withdrawn.

The county council are currently proposing to make further cuts to services of £45million.

Council chiefs say it is likely that more than 30 services will be affected but the cuts are not expected to have a "negative impact" on front-line service delivery.

Labour have said they had no option but to call an extraordinary meeting of full council, to be held on Friday, September 15, in accordance with Procedural Standing Order 2(2)(b).

County Councillor Geoff Driver

The Conservatives though have accused Labour of "political gimmicks" to distract the council.

At the extraordinary meeting the following motions will be considered:-

- The full council should fully debate the proposed restructure and its implications for the service delivery in a transparent way by giving the powers for implementation of the restructure to full council.
- This council is concerned that the serious financial situation will have a devastating effect on services unless it is considered in an open, transparent and constructive manner.
- This council lacks confidence in the current leader of the council County Councillor Driver and calls on him to resign with immediate effect.

Skelmersdale East County Councillor John Fillis commented: "This is a shifty and shabby attempt by the Conservative group to avoid an open and honest debate at full council on the future of people's services. We must be honest and up front with the people regarding what is happening to their service. Councillor Driver is the leader and as such he should resign, but the responsibility lies with every Conservative councillor."

In response the Conservative group said: "We are disappointed that the Labour opposition has decided to play political gimmicks as an attempt to distract the council from the implementation of major investments in front-line services and the ongoing work to create a more financially stable authority. The Conservative administration will remain focussed on investing in highways, bus services and flood protection for our communities. We remain resolute in our mission to create a more financially sustainable operating model for the council, ensuring taxpayers across receive best value."

Fun fest to launch youth group

A FUN-packed festival has been organised to launch a new youth group for the youngsters of Burscough.

Adopting the tongue-in-cheek title of YOBs (Youth of Burscough) it has been set up by Burscough Parish Council supported by an Awards for All grant with the aim of developing activities for young people in the area.

YOBsFest, will be held at Burscough Cricket Club on Saturday, September 30 in partnership with the cricket club and the Skelmersdale-based social enterprise the E-Rooms, with sponsorship by Ormskirk cash and carry wholesalers the Mahood Brothers.

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RESIDENTS who need to contact West Lancashire Borough Council's emergency out-of-hours phone line on Saturday, September 16 are being advised they may experience some disruption.

The main council number, 01695 577177, is available to the public out of office hours for emergencies only.

However, the authority says that essential maintenance is being carried out at the council offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk, on Saturday and the phone line may be out of action for short periods.

Normal service will resume when these works are completed which the council expects to be on the same day.

Any updates regarding the potential disruption that become available to the council prior to Saturday, September 16 will be posted on the website www.westlancs.gov.uk.

In case of emergencies involving fire, ambulance and police residents should call 999.

If your call is of an urgent nature the council advise the following telephone numbers may be useful:

- Police non-emergency number: 101.
- Fire non–emergency number: Ormskirk Fire Station 01695 572223; Skelmersdale Fire Station 01695 723853.
- Health non-emergency: 111.

Councillor Ian Moran

- Lancashire County Council: 0300 123 6701.
- Environment Agency: 0378 506 506.
- National Grid Gas: 0800 111999.
- United Utilities: 0345 672 3723.
- Power cut: Call Electricity North West on 105.
- Out-of-hours homelessness emergency line: 0845 371 0898.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancs Council, said: "The council apologises for any disruption caused due to the essential maintenance and thanks you in advance for your patience."

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Hospital trust parking company's 'tickets for profits' scheme slammed

Report by **Henry James**

UK PARKING Control Ltd. (UKPC), the company which oversees parking at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, has come under fire for operating a profit share scheme which hits visitors to hospital sites in the pocket.

An investigation by ITV's *Tonight* programme claims the organisation offers incentives to its hospital parking wardens depending on how many tickets they issue.

In an episode of the programme entitled 'The Trust Cost of Parking' it was revealed that the company offers profit-related pay, and employees receive a percentage of the revenues that they generate.

It showed a video from the company describing its staff as 'their own profit centre.'

UKPC claim, however, that the 'initiative' is not based on the number of tickets given out.

In the *Tonight* programme, Edmund King, the UK president of the Automobile Association, commented: "The system should free up places and make sure that people do not park for too long. The video from UKPC telling the parking attendants that they are a profit centre and that they can get big bonuses by giving out more tickets is frankly outrageous.

"It does encourage bad practice. If there is any question about a ticket being given, the parking attendant is more likely to give the ticket if it affects their wages."

Following the programme Simon Williams, facilities manager at Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, said: "UK Parking Control Ltd (UKPC) patrols our car parks to prevent thoughtless and dangerous parking.

Ormskirk Hospital

"The company only issues fixed penalty notices to drivers who, for example, park in Blue Badge spaces they are not entitled to; park on pavements and double yellow lines; or block access to essential clinical services and emergency services such as ambulances and fire engines.

"The terms and conditions for parking are clearly displayed in our car parks. Disputes about penalty notices issued at our hospital car parks are referred by UKPC to the trust first before, if appropriate, processing to the next stage."

UKPC were contacted by the Champion but did not respond. However, in the programme they said the scheme was not based on the number of parking tickets issued and added: "We have safeguards against malpractice and as a result of the introduction of our profit share scheme there has been a 21% reduction in errors relating to the issue of parking charges."

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Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Animal Magic returns to WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is flying open it's doors on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September for the annual wildlife spectacular: Animal Magic.

Working with Exotic Zoo, regularly featured on Blue Peter, Animal Magic is the centres most popular family event, with over 4000 people attending last year. Meet a baby crocodile and an armadillo, go on a donkey ride, see wallabies and meerkats, hug a greyhound, watch Asian short-clawed otters and pygmy goats play, get close to a variety of birds of prey or be scared by lots of reptiles and insects. Most of the displays will be indoors so whatever the weather you are guaranteed a great day out.

Centre Manager, Nick Brooks, said: "Animal Magic is our most popular family event at the centre. We always try to do events at the Centre that provide a fantastic opportunity for our visitors to experience something new; where you can get very close to or stroke animals such as an armadillo and meerkats at one event; you can see all kinds of animals you probably wouldn't come across in your day to day life and it is amazing to see so many children enjoy the experience.'

To help you plan your day...

· Have a go at free pond dipping at the Pond House to see what creatures you can see in the ponds. There will also be a range of family craft activities for children between 11am and 4pm including making animal ears, some may include a small charge;

· Explore a hidden gem of wetland habitat: Wild Walk – meander through the muddy meadow, wander in the wet woods and get lost in a reedy ramble spotting wildlife and giant sculptures;

· You can also have a go on our award winning canoe safari and boat tour experience as well as build dens out of conifer and explore our brand new adventure play area.

The event is taking place from 10am to 4pm and normal admission prices will apply to enter the Centre.

For information on these events and other activities happening at the centre visit www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere and click on events, or call 01704 891220.

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 6pm. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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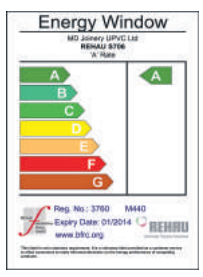

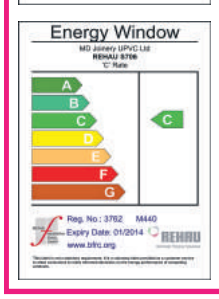

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Call to 'log on' at your local library for Get Online Week

County council inviting all ages to take advantage of 'fantastic opportunity' to get to grips with Internet

LANCASHIRE County Council is inviting residents of all ages to 'log on' at their local library for national Get Online Week.

The theme of this year's campaign, running from Monday, October 2 to Sunday, October 8, is Try 1 Thing online.

During the week, libraries across the county will focus on helping people to improve their online skills and get to grips with the Internet.

People will be supported to develop or to improve their online ability and discover how the Internet can make their lives a little easier - whether it's job-hunting, trying to get healthy, connecting with friends and family or simply shopping for a bargain,

There will be sessions for beginners in libraries across the county where they will be supported by staff to take the first steps and get started. Confident users will be able to learn more and advance their skills.

Those taking part will also be able to find out more about the Lancashire Digital Library, which features free downloads of both e-books and e-audiobooks, as well as having access to the complete online reference library.

County Councillor Peter Buckley

Now in its 10th year, Get Online Week has already helped thousands of people to discover how the Internet can improve their lives.

Benefits

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "More local people than ever now enjoy the benefits of using the Internet, yet there are still many adults in Lancashire who have never been online.

"Get Online Week offers a fantastic opportunity for people to get familiar with modern technology and start enjoying all the advantages of life online.

"Digital skills are increasingly important in every aspect of our lives, from job opportunities, education and entertainment, to using services and shopping.

"It doesn't matter whether you'll be getting online for the first time or looking to learn more.

"I would really encourage anyone to go along to one of the friendly sessions at your local library and start getting online, and maybe do more with your skills.

"Although it can feel pretty scary getting started, we're here to help you and there's lots of support available."

You don't have to have an iPad or tablet to sign up to one of the courses, but if you do, it would help to take it along to a session. And you can just turn up at your local library to take part for free.

To find out more about Lancashire County Council libraries, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries or call 0300 123 6703.

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Ormskirk town centre packed with visitors during Motorfest

Council defends 'fantastic' MotorFest

WEST Lancs Council chiefs have refuted suggestions that this year's Ormskirk MotorFest was "a shambles" and described it instead as "a fantastic occasion."

Report by **Kenny Parker**

It follows complaints about delays between cars making circuits of the town during the parade laps and visitors being unable to view the exhibits properly.

There were also claims of a lack of stewards to control the large crowds, particularly in Moor Street, and that the public address system was inadequate.

Meanwhile, the local authority was accused of showing a lack of consideration for town-centre residents by failing to provide enough parking to accommodate visitors to the event, resulting in blocked driveways.

However, a spokesman for the council said: "Ormskirk MotorFest has grown to be one of the biggest free family events in the North West and over 30,000 people enjoyed this year's extravaganza, a record for this fantastic occasion.

"The MotorFest is organised by Aintree Circuit Club and supported by West Lancashire Borough Council. The team work hard to make sure the event goes smoothly and organisers have had many comments from people who really enjoyed the MotorFest and thought it was a fantastic occasion.

"The parade laps are a fantastic attraction and seeing the cars in action is what makes MotorFest different from so many other motoring events where the cars remain on static display all the time.

"However, public health and safety has to be the priority. There was a delay to the parade laps as MotorFest medical teams had to deal with a number of serious medical emergencies. Information was given out by the commentators to tell spectators what was happening.

"Event organisers sympathise with the resident who said their driveway was blocked but they cannot be held responsible for where visitors park their vehicles.

"Traffic management and on-street parking enforcement is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council as highway authority for the West Lancashire borough. Obstructions to the highway, including people's driveways being blocked, is the responsibility of Lancashire Police to enforce.

"Extra trains were put on by Northern Rail from Preston to Ormskirk for the event and MotorFest organisers also set up a special shuttle bus from Edge Hill University so people could park there. So there were options for visitors not to bring their cars into town."

A spokesman for Aintree Circuit Club said the complaints would be discussed at the group's debrief meeting.

Base Academy to offer GCSE course in dance

AN Ormksirk dance academy is offering a GCSE course in dance for children.

After 12 months of planning, officials of the Base Dance Theatre Academy at the Malthouse Business Centre in Southport Road say they are thrilled to be able to offer students in Year 9 and 10 the opportunity to take the course which, they say is not taught in many high schools.

The course will be taught as an extra-curricular activity outside of school hours with pupils able to study in their own time at the studio.

Limited

It is aimed at youngsters with a passion for all aspects of dance who want to improve their skills as performers and choreographers, as well as help those hoping for careers as professional dancers.

The course, scheduled to start on Monday, September 25, will incur a fee and places are limited but it is open to both members and non-members of the academy.

For more information email info@base-dance.com or phone 01695 578708.

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Members and friends of West Lancashire Light Railway posing in front of *Irish Mail*

Full steam ahead for golden milestone!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

TO CELEBRATE 50 years of running a working museum, West Lancashire Light Railway enthusiasts will be letting off steam in a special family fun weekend.

The event, on Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24, will give visitors the chance to get close to locomotives and enjoy a host of events and entertainment including model railways, a children's fairground and traditional games, vintage bus rides and live music.

The West Lancashire Light Railway is a two-foot gauge passenger-carrying railway that runs for a quarter of a mile around a fishing lake in the village of Hesketh Bank.

It was started in September 1967 by six local schoolboys concerned by the loss of small, narrow gauge industrial railways. Through family connections they were able to lay track alongside a clay pit at Alty's brickwork's, near Hesketh Bank station on the standard gauge West Lancashire Railway between Preston and Southport.

Since then it has grown into a working museum featuring eight steam engines, a comprehensive collection of diesel locomotives and rolling stock items, plus electric railway equipment from local sites such as coal mines and brickworks and slate quarries in North Wales.

Between 11.30am and 4pm on both days passenger trains will be hauled by one or more visiting steam locomotives, together with the railway's own locomotives.

The guest locos will include *Stanhope*, which spent a long time at Hesketh Bank when it was being restored, and *Alice*, which is almost identical to the the railway's own 'Quarry' Hunslet *Irish Mail*. A third guest loco will be *Cloister*, another 'Quarry' Hunslet but sporting a different livery.

Entry to the event is free as is parking. The train rides (for as many rides as you like) are £5 for adults, £3.50 for children, £14 for a family and £4.50 for over-60s.

The cost to drive a diesel, under supervision, is £5. For more information, visit the website at www.westlancsrailway.org.

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Councillor Nikki Hennessy and fellow trustee, Rory Green officially open the new Virtual Spin facility at Burscough Raquet & Fitness Centre watched by fitness manager, Anne Gibson and instructor, Anthony Robinson

Former mayor sets wheels in motion as fitness centre unveils new spin studio

FORMER Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nicky Hennessy cut the ribbon to open a new Virtual RPM Spin Studio at Burscough Racquets & Fitness Centre.

Cllr. Hennessy, a trustee at the West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust, was helped in her duties by fellow trustee, Rory Green.

RPM Spin is a group indoor cycling workout where people control the intensity. It is aimed to be fun, low-impact and can burn up to 675 calories a session.

With music pumping and the group spinning as one, some of the world's leading fitness instructors take people on a journey of hill climbs, sprints and flat riding.

Investment

In a RPM Spin workout you repeatedly spin the pedals to reach your cardio peak, then ease back down, keeping pace with the pack to lift your personal performance and boost your cardio fitness.

The investment of £40,000 to build the new Spin Studio at Burscough was supported by the West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust and now provides the centre and its members with the latest 'world-leading' fitness classes by Les Mills.

Trustee chairman, Jason Grice, said: "This is a fantastic new facility for the community and we as trustees are delighted to be able to provide this unique exercise equipment to benefit the health and wellbeing of the West Lancs community."

Extra free childcare reminder to working parents

WITH the new school terms now underway parents in Lancashire are being reminded that they could be eligible for more free childcare.

Some working parents of three and four-year-olds can now apply for up to 30 hours of free childcare each week in term-time, up to a maximum of 1,140 hours each year.

This has been increased from the 15 hours that all three and four-year-olds are already entitled to receive weekly, in the term after their third birthday.

The additional 15 hours of free care is available for families where both parents are working, or the single parent is working in a single-parent family, and each parent earns the equivalent of at least 16 hours a week at the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage.

Parents also each need to earn less than £100,000 a year.

Eligibility can be checked by visiting www.childcarechoices.gov.uk and completing the online form.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "I would urge parents to find out if they are entitled to these extra hours of childcare. The extra hours will make it easier for parents to work.

"Children can really benefit from early education, as it helps children to develop in so many ways and gives parents a helping hand too."

Parents can apply to use the hours at participating nurseries, playgroups, childminders and some schools.

More information is available about the scheme and childcare providers in the area at www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare

Any parents who are unsure about the free hours affecting any other benefits or how to obtain their eligibility code can contact HMRC directly on 0300 123 4097.

More information is also available on Twitter. You can track the #LancsFIS hashtag for updates from the Family Information Service and #ChildcareChoices for further details about all government childcare offers.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

We all pay our council tax and we all deserve equal help

I LIVE in Skelmersdale and today I read in the Champion (September 6) about the council urging tenants to apply for an exclusive home contents insurance scheme.

The tenants, as it is, only pay a pittance of rent and get most major jobs done for free, such as kitchens and recently new front and back doors, bin store doors and new windows.

As a homeowner for most of my life I am sick and tired of hearing about schemes for tenants.

Why are these schemes not available for residents as well?

Here in Skelmersdale we have had a lot of flooding due to poor drains and on our estate we have been flooding a lot recently.

I reported a damaged drain two years ago and guess what? No repair has been done despite repeated phone calls and then promises from the council to sort it.

We have been left out of pocket as a result of the flooding but when I asked the council that if we had problems again would they help us they said because we are not tenants there would be no help

So you can see why, when reading this article, I am fuming because yet again more help for tenants and no help for homeowners.

The council needs to remember we all pay council tax, we don't all get benefits and we all deserve equal help.

Alison Reece, Skelmersdale, by email

Dog walkers beware of 'deadly' bones!

SOMEBODY is regularly leaving cooked pork bones in the woods alongside the footpath from Stoney Brow to Mill Lane in Up Holland at the base of two large holly trees.

Cooked pork bones can, because they splinter when chewed, cause dogs to die agonising deaths from ruptured intestines and stomachs.

The police have been informed and visited the area.

Dog walkers be aware and whoever is leaving these bones, stop!

Graham P. Walker, Up Holland

Our politics is in need of fundamental reform

I AM writing in response to Graham Walker's letter ('County Council should be scrutinised by an independent body') in the Champion (August 30).

In it he kindly complimented me for attempting to reduce county councillor expenses in July, an act which led me to quit the Conservative Party and cross the floor to sit as an independent at County Hall.

Whatever readers may think of my actions back in July, I ask them to consider two questions.

1. Why were Conservative county councillors so determined to stop me from speaking out in favour of reducing councillor expenses?

2. Why did Conservative and Labour county councillors join together to block my attempt to reduce councillor expenses?

The answers to these questions tell us all we need to know about our politics and why fundamental root and branch reform is needed.

But I fear the current crop of local politicians are not up to this task. After all, as they demonstrated in July, turkeys don't vote for Christmas!

Dr Paul V. Greenall, Independent, Lancashire County Council

Downsizing in Aughton? We wish!

MY husband and I are residents of Aughton and have been for 50 years.

We are very fortunate to own our home, a four-bed detached property which really is too big for us now the family have moved away.

We would like to downsize and free up this property for a younger family.

The only options we have is to either move away from the area or move to a community living-type apartment for the over-55s which really isn't our thing.

Our ideal is to move into a bungalow but these days developers, especially in Aughton, do not build such schemes.

How about a bungalow scheme for the mature residents? Surely the council should be encouraging this type of home on the multitude of sites available?

Mrs T. Jones, by email

You're welcome to come and show us how it's done - at 4.30am!

IN reply to the person who thinks dismantling the market could be done by two people (Champion Letters, September 6).

Each stall, of which there are 85, has 14 pieces to be assembled.

These are transported on five trailers that are stored at the park.

A further 10 gazebos are stored at Skelmersdale with two trailers being taken from there.

We start at 4.30am and the stallholders are waiting to set up from 5am.

Please accept my invitation to observe our work any morning to give us feedback on how to improve.

I have been doing this for more than 30 years but would welcome new ideas.

Vintage Marketeer, by email

PICTURE of the week

Becconsall Old Church, a Grade II listed building in the village of Hesketh Bank, welcomed visitors last weekend as part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Inspections should always be made without notice being given

RE: Champion article on the CQC placing of St Joseph's Hospice in Thornton in 'special measures', I note that the chair of St Joseph's believes that the inspection was "bad timing."

The raison d'etre for any quality management inspection is that it shall be a snapshot of what takes place.

Inspections by arrangement tend to be unrepresentative as it is inevitable that 'stage management' takes place before the arrival of the inspection team (like preparing for Royal visits!) The resulting report and findings are then more favourable than would otherwise be the case.

As CQC normally give notice, then in this particular instance, the findings, whilst poor in some respects, were probably better than they might have been, had the inspection been undertaken at zero notice.

As we are constantly seeing poor standards in the care home/nursing home sector, and to some extent at times in NHS hospitals, it would seem that the CQC need to have more 'without notice' inspection visits, as the results would be more representative of conditions and practice on any day of any year.

It would work wonders for the raising of standards throughout the hospital, care, nursing and hospice sector nationwide, if management knew that at any moment the inspection team could knock on the door to carry out mandatory inspection.

My background includes being a qualified by examination Lead Quality Management Assessor and also service as a governor of an NHS Ambulance Service Trust. I am thus very well aware of healthcare issues and QA sampling and inspections.

Ian Hammond, by email

Hospice providing better, more caring service than ever before

THE end of August was an incredibly difficult time for our beloved hospice as we were thrust in to the media spotlight following the publication of the CQC's Inspection report, which rated us as Inadequate.

We have received so many very touching messages and letters of support from our community, and particularly from families who currently have loved ones being cared for at the hospice.

Several of them even offered to be interviewed by the media to give their views on our care and we are incredibly grateful to them for their support.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our patients and their families, our staff, volunteers and supporters for the kindness they have shown us in recent weeks.

We even received a letter from one of our patients in response to the CQC's report.

I would also like to reassure everyone that the hospice is already providing a more professional, safer service than ever before. One which is as compassionate and caring as people have come to expect.

Thanks to all our community for their love and support.

George Foster, chair of trustees, St Joseph's Hospice

Beware an autumn rodent invasion!

Cooler temperatures and wet weather could see rats seeking shelter in *your* home, pest experts warn

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Rats breed rapidly and will create nests in attics or walls, so it's vital to act as soon as any evidence is found, says BPCA.

RESIDENTS in Lancashire are being warned to guard against a fresh invasion of rats this autumn!

Pest experts fear numbers could soar in the next few months due to a combination of cooler temperatures and increasingly wet weather, prompting the rodents to abandon their summer habitats and seek food and shelter indoors.

Dee Ward-Thompson, technical manager of the British Pest Control Association (BPCA), says residents should be doing all they can now to protect their properties.

She said: "Rain washes rats out of sewers and other nesting places and, inevitably, they go looking for shelter in higher ground.

"They'll try to find some sort of dwelling and that could be lofts, garages or sheds.

"Our members report the number of calls to deal with infestations often rises in the autumn when the temperature drops often quite dramatically and we're expecting a similar pattern this time. So, it's important for householders to do as much as they can to ensure they're not among those affected."

The non-profit organisation advise that a typical home may have more than a dozen potential entry points for the rodents and that rats can get through gaps as small as 15mm, often using plumbing pipes and unscreened vents or gaps in the eaves and roof edges.

Mrs Ward-Thompson added: "The first evidence of rats in a home is often noises under the floor, in the walls or loft, as that's where most will head to once they're inside.

"Quite apart from the health risks, they'll foul water tanks and chew on wood or electrical wires which can cause a lot of damage and poses a fire hazard.

"They'll also do their best to find sources of food, which means they can soon move to other areas of the house occupied by humans.

"Rats also breed rapidly and will create nests in attics or walls, so it's vital to act as soon as any evidence is found."

BPCA says it's much easier to prevent an infestation than to get rid of one and offers some simple precautions which can be taken to reduce the risk.

These include sealing up any external gaps, holes or crevices; removing potential nesting sites by keeping yards and gardens clean and tidy; cutting back overgrown areas and clearing any piles of wood or debris; and disposing of rubbish carefully and not leaving leftover food lying around.

The association also advises that compost heaps be kept covered and that areas around bird feeders be kept clean.

Finally, if you do find an infestation the BPCA recommends using a recognised professional to deal with it.

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University's students' union members raise £8,000 for charities

EDGE Hill University Students' Union has announced that its societies have raised an impressive £8,000 for charities this year.

Based on the Ormskirk campus, the union presides over more than 70 societies and sports teams for students, including one with the specific aim of raising and giving away money.

After a vote it was decided to donate the funds to the North West Air Ambulance, Anti-Slavery International and the Coppafeel! breast cancer awareness charity.

Union activities vice-president, Dan Bocharnikov, said: "We are passionate about fundraising at Edge Hill and the RAG (Raising and Giving) society is one of our most popular, so we know it's really important for students too.

"We're really proud of our students' efforts this year, and are working on new ideas to develop our volunteering and fundraising output, particularly through increasing our links with the local community and charities."

Other societies involved in fundraising events along with RAG include the video gaming society, history society and women's hockey team.

Council officials and guests look on as the Red Ensign is about to be raised at the West Lancs Borough Council offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk to mark Merchant Navy Day

Borough flies the flag for Merchant Navy Day

WEST Lancs Council raised the Red Ensign flag to mark Merchant Navy Day and raise awareness of the UK's dependence on the seafarers.

The flag was hoisted outside the council offices at Derby Street, Ormskirk as a show of support for a nationwide call by the Seafarers UK charity and the Merchant Navy Association for it to be flown on public buildings and landmark flagstaffs.

Veterans and members of the public attended the ceremony, along with Councillor Noel Delaney, Deputy Mayor of West Lancashire; council leader, Councillor Ian Moran; Councillor Terry Devine, the borough's Armed Forces Champion; Father Michael Thompson, the mayor's chaplain; and senior council officers.

At the ceremony Cllr. Moran said: "While many people know that September 3 1939 marked the outbreak of the Second World War, few are aware that it also marks the first major British maritime casualty, the merchant vessel SS Athenia torpedoed with the loss of 128 passengers and crew. Although many hundreds of merchant ships and thousands of seafarers would meet the same fate in years to come, September 3 is now enshrined as Merchant Navy Day to honour the brave men and women who kept our island afloat during both world wars, and even during peacetime faced, and continue to face, the more routine perils of violent storms and mountainous seas."

After the flag was raised by a cadet, Cllr. Delaney thanked everyone for coming and said: "I am delighted that this council has been given the opportunity to recognise the Merchant Navy by flying the Red Ensign."

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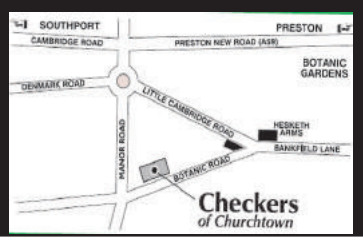

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Launch date announced for county council reading initiative

CHILDREN'S authors, Guy Bass, Karen McCombie and Steven Webb will launch this year's Fantastic Book Awards - Lancashire County Council's reading initiative for primary school children - at the Samlesbury Hotel, Preston on Wednesday, September 20.

The awards, developed by Lancashire's school library service, will run until May next year and will involve thousands of children from the county's schools as they vote for their favourite stories.

Main aim of the awards is to support reading for pleasure and enjoyment by introducing newly-published fiction titles to nine to 11-year-olds and encourage them to meet and discuss them at informal book clubs.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "Research tells us that interest in reading sadly declines considerably when children move on from primary to secondary school so I think this is a tremendous initiative. We are fully committed to maintaining the high levels and standards of literacy here in Lancashire."

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I never feel far from home on the Broads...

IT'S a small world, so they say. And it really is!

I returned from my latest Norfolk and Suffolk Broads cruise aboard my (mainly) trusty boat, *Manxman*, realising that you can take the Champion out of Merseyside and Lancashire but you certainly can't lose it in East Anglia.

My reason for taking this trip when I did, in the middle of the school holidays which ensures that the more popular northern rivers resemble Piccadilly Circus in the rush hour - something I would normally not even consider - was to take *Manxman* on her annual pilgrimage to the lovely little town of Beccles to attend the Wooden Cruiser rally.

In fact, this made the whole thing make more sense, because fewer boats populate the southern rivers (there are fewer hire yards there and to get there from the north requires a lengthy voyage through Great Yarmouth and Breydon Water which can occasionally get rather rough).

Anyway, there I was in Broadland. And as is normal, I met and chatted to fellow navigators and just about the first question anybody asks is: "Have you come far and where is your home town?"

Now it didn't surprise me that I came across Neil and Natalie from Lydiate because I knew they owned a wooden cruiser somewhat older than my 1965 *Manxman*.

The only surprise when I did bump into them (not literally) was that it was not at the boat show where I expected to find them, but out on the river. We passed like ships in the night a couple of times, moored near each other briefly at the village of Loddon, and eventually, quite by chance, I moored for the night directly astern of them at a quiet spot, Church Fen, near the busy boating centre of Brundall, where we had a jolly good natter before I braved the fen, crossed the railway line, and did a little necessary shopping.

As an aside, the recently-built steam locomotive, *Tornado*, was hauling a train to and from Yarmouth that day, and on my way back I saw it being pulled backwards by a diesel loco down the line towards Norwich where it could be turned for its journey home, there now being no turntable at Yarmouth. A wonderful 'extra' for me.

But I fear I have shunted myself into a siding here.

Getting back to the small world, I then met a lovely elderly couple who turned out to be from Southport - again waving merrily to each other as we passed on the river, and again ending up on the same mooring, Howe Hill (worth a visit if only to marvel at its 'Secret Garden').

And a third chance conversation brought forth yet another local couple and their family, from Melling, who made my day by all wanting to peep into *Manxman* to see the eponymous dog, Tina who didn't look her best because she is in the process of shedding her white undercoat.

I'm sure the same kind of coincidences could easily have happened in Benidorm or Butlins, though unlike any centred holiday, a cruise on the broads means you only have limited contact with other hardy souls and three such chance meetings in one holiday does seem to me rather unusual.

Incidentally, I was also questioned, twice, about whether or not I had brought *Manxman* across the Irish Sea and round the coast to Norfolk (by people who really did come from the Isle of Man) and both seemed happy with my explanation that before my late brother George and I bought her back in 1984, I had spent much time on the island and *Manxman* had always been my favourite of the ferries.

So much so in fact that one spent a long time in discussing the original *Manxman* and her cohorts and was fascinated by the book I possess setting out her history as an Irish Sea ferry.

As I said, it really IS a small world!

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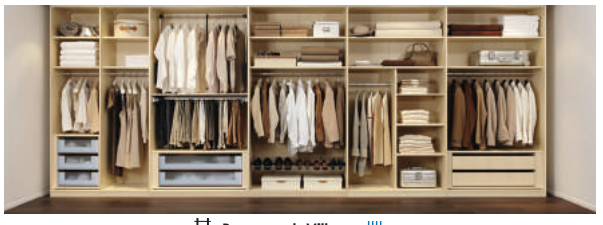

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Information evening for potential foster carers

LANCASHIRE County Council is staging another information evening for would-be foster carers.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend the event to be held at County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston, from 6 to 7.30pm on Wednesday, September 20.

Members of the county council's fostering team, as well as social workers and current foster carers, will be available to answer questions, talk you through the process and offer advice.

The authority has recently increased the allowances payable to new foster carers to between £241 and £415 per week for each child they care for.

People who have considered fostering before but weren't sure they could afford it are advised to come along to the information evening and find out if it could now be a viable option.

Further details about the information evening or about fostering in general is available by calling 0300 123 6723 or online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering.

There's no need to book for the meeting, you can just turn up.

Free parking is available on the Arthur Street car park, next to County Hall and the Pitt Street entrance is accessible for disabled people.

Public invited to have their say on health commissioners' policy review

Report by **Henry James**

THE NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is working in partnership with the other seven CCGs in Lancashire and South Cumbria to review clinical policies across the region and is inviting residents to have their say.

The eight groups have all agreed that there is a need to review their clinical policies in order to ensure a consistent and fair approach; update current policies in accordance with National Guidelines and best clinical practice; and to make sure they are using limited resources to maximum effect.

Residents of West Lancashire are invited to read the revised draft policy on complementary and alternative therapies and the new draft policy for rehabilitation after damage to the facial nerve.

They can then provide their feedback and comments by completing the relevant survey.

The policy and survey can be accessed by visiting the CCG's website, www.westlancshireccg.nhs.uk but any residents without access to a computer who would like details posted to them can contact the CCG on 01695 588 000.

Greg Mitten, chief officer of West Lancs Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) and lay member for patient and public involvement at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "The CCG is responsible for commissioning a wide range of clinical services, including GP services, hospital services, community, mental health and learning disability services, for and on behalf of, the local population of which we serve.

Greg Mitten, chief officer of West Lancs CVS

"We need to ensure this is done in an open, fair and transparent manner but in so doing we must take into account the limited resources we have.

"A key role for the CCG is to develop clinical policies that help us make decisions about the use of those limited resources.

"We would encourage any resident with an interest in these policies to visit the CCG website and have their say."

Birthday celebration for charity supporting vulnerable children

A CHARITY that supports vulnerable children including those affected by sexual exploitation has celebrated its 17th birthday with young people and former service users who have benefited from its help.

National charity The Children's Society's Lancashire programme also provides help for children from across the county who go missing, for those who are in care and for refugees.

In 2016/17 the programme offered intensive support to more than 1,200 children and young people, of whom nearly three-quarters felt things had improved for them on the back of the charity's help.

It also reached more than 3,300 young people and more than 800 parents and professionals through awareness-raising sessions.

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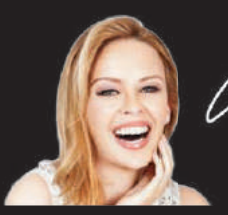

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* No pool on site.

Breathe Easy group get expert advice on pulmonary rehab

MELANIE Reardon, a specialist respiratory physiotherapist with the pulmonary rehabilitation service was guest speaker at the latest meeting of the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group.

Patients from both West Lancs and Southport can use the service and can be referred by their GP although there is also a self-referral system.

Pulmonary rehab in Ormskirk is held at the hospital and in Southport at the Dunes Leisure Centre.

It involves one-to-one assessment followed by a weekly exercise session over seven weeks, to be continued by the patient at home.

Breathing control exercises are taught at pulmonary rehabilitation, especially using the diaphragm. Melanie also advised that exercise is vital for maintaining and increasing strength and enhancing emotional well-being. Exercise, as well as advice from occupational therapy, helps a patient cope with the limitations of their condition and increases confidence.

Guidelines

She told the group that appropriate exercise is vital for respiratory and cardiac patients, to avoid pneumonia. Current government guidelines recommend 30 minutes of appropriate exercise, five times a week, as minimum, but it is feared that only about 20 to 30% of the population adhere to these recommendations.

Melanie mentioned that new medications are coming out all the time. She told members at the group if they are breathless to try to keep moving as much as possible and added it can be very helpful to have a fan blowing in the face.

She also reminded the group that they must try to reduce stress as this can adversely affect the immune system and increases breathlessness.

Melanie Reardon addresses the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group

Melanie rounded off her talk by illustrating and explaining the use of a number of devices which help clear secretions in the lungs, including the PowerBreathe, an inspiratory muscle trainer and a class 1 medical device, a drug-free treatment that helps patients help themselves, increasing resistance on the respiratory muscles which, as they strengthen, use less oxygen.

Patricia Ireland, from the Southport and West Lancashire Breathe Easy group, said: "Melanie left us with excellent advice: 'Get to know your own lungs; take your inhalers correctly and check your inhaler technique at least once per year!' Thank-you Melanie for an excellent talk."

The group's next meeting will be on Monday, September 18, starting at 11.15am, at the Guide HQ, Green Lane, Ormskirk, when the speaker will be Dr Karen Groves, MBE.

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Consultation proposed on library opening hours

LANCASHIRE County Council is proposing a public consultation to seek people's views on how their local libraries' opening hours could be allocated across the week in future.

If approved by the county council's cabinet at its meeting on Thursday, September 14, an eight-week consultation would begin on Monday, October 2 and run until Sunday, November 26.

Views on the proposal would be sought from library users, staff and partner organisations before taking a final decision early next year.

The proposal allocates each library to one of four different bands depending upon local need, so that the library opening hours are proportionate to the population that each library is serving.

The consultation will be asking for comments on the way the opening hours are allocated across the week.

If the proposal goes ahead, libraries across the county will be open for more hours in total than at present.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "We've designed the proposed model according to when we know they're most used, with the aim of better meeting demand with the resources we have. There will be no difference in the quality of service between bands.

"If the proposal to consult is approved I would encourage everyone involved to let us have their views."

The four models being recommended are:

- **Band one:** Open for 50 hours over six days every week.
- **Band two:** Open for 42 hours over six days every week.
- **Band three**: Open for 34 hours over five days every week.
- **Band four:** Open for 18 hours over four days every week.

If the consultation is given the go-ahead, from Monday, October 2 the public will be able to give their views by filling in a printed questionnaire available at their local library or mobile library.

Alternatively they can go online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay and click on 'consultations' then click on 'library opening hours consultation'.

The proposed consultation will apply to the 47 libraries currently open.

Join us in September for a week of FUN, FREE activities.

Lancashire County Council

Active Health Week West Lancs

Junk Food Cafe | West Lancashire Community Leisure | West Lancashire Ranger Service | Burscough Community Farm

MON 18th — 10-2pm OPEN DAY at Burscough Community Farm, Meadow Lane. L40 4BB. Includes hands-on harvesting, craft activity, refreshments, etc.

TUES 19th — Health Walks from Beacon Country Park. WN8 7RU. Strollers - 3 miles - meet 11am. Striders - 6-8 miles - meet 9.30am. Light refreshments served afterwards in visitor centre.

WED 20th — 12-2pm Enjoy a 'healthy meal' at Junk Food Cafe. Try out our smoothie bike, blood pressure checks, etc. at Tanhouse Community Centre, Skelmersdale. WN8 6AN.

THURS 21st — #yourmileyourway. Lancashire-wide campaign to see how many miles we can collectively clock-up, e.g. walking, swimming, cycling, running, etc. Log your mile afterwards at activewestlancs.org

FRI 22nd — 9am-12pm. Try active sports at Burscough Raquet & Fitness Centre. L40 0SD. Includes indoor bowls, badminton, table tennis, squash, virtual spin, body conditioning, walking football. Light refreshments and quiz at 12pm.

Come & try something new this month!

For more information please contact: Active West Lancs Office

Tel: 01695 555804 (Wed - Fri, 8am - 4pm) Email: activewestlancs@westlancs.gov.uk

www.activewestlancs.org

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Chance to get active in West Lancs in September

ACTIVE West Lancs is inviting residents to try exciting new activities this month aimed at helping them improve their health and meet new people.

A three-year programme to improve health and wellbeing across the borough, Active West Lancs is a partnership commissioned by Lancashire County Council and made up of West Lancs Council, Skelmersdale Community Food Initiative, West Lancs School Sports Partnership, West Lancs CVS and West Lancs Community Leisure Trust.

The latest initiative is a 12-week Active Weight programme in Burscough and Skelmersdale.

The two-hour daytime sessions help individuals discover the benefits of making healthier food choices, improving their health and becoming more active. Sessions are fun and include some form of gentle exercise, which is advisable but optional.

Sessions commenced on Monday, September 4, but people can still sign up until week three of the course.

For more information call 01695 555804 or visit the website www.activewestlancs.org or www.westlancs.gov.uk/active

After the success of the first Active West Lancs 'Couch to 5k' course, a new nine-week programme commenced on Monday, September 11 at Lordsgate Township CE Primary School, Burscough.

Sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7pm, and with the help of programme leaders people can go from small beginnings to completing a continuous 35 to 45-minute run by week nine. Register online by Monday, September 25 at www.runtogether.co.uk

Councillor Yvonne Gagen

Later in the month Active West Lancs is organising a September Health Week of free fun activities.

Events start on Monday, September 18 with an Active Eco Open day at Burscough Community Farm, Meadow Lane between 10am and 2pm. Optional activities include hands-on harvesting and crafts. All activities are free of charge and open to residents of West Lancs.

On Thursday, September 21 residents can join thousands of other people across Lancashire to cover a mile distance any way they choose. Swim, run, cycle, walk, space hop – the more creative the better. People can record their mile at www.activewestlancs.org

For a full list of Health Week activities visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/active or www.activewestlancs.org

The week ends on Friday, September 22 with Active Leisure when people can take part in fun activities including indoor bowls, badminton, squash, table tennis, virtual spin, and walking football at Burscough Racquets & Fitness Club between 9am and noon. Residents can also enjoy refreshments and a leisure quiz at noon.

Active Golf is a new initiative of weekly golf sessions on Fridays from 10am to noon at Beacon Golf Club, Up Holland. Equipment is provided and no previous golf experience is needed. The activity will start when appropriate numbers have signed up.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council cabinet member for leisure, said: "Active West Lancs provides wonderful health and leisure activities for local people. I am sure there will be something you fancy trying, so sign up for one of the programmes or come along to the activities and you will reap the benefits."

Active West Lancs also continues to deliver weekly health walks and Active Gym programmes.

For more information on the above activities call 01695 555804, email activewestlancs@westlancs.gov.uk or go to the website www.activewestlancs.org.

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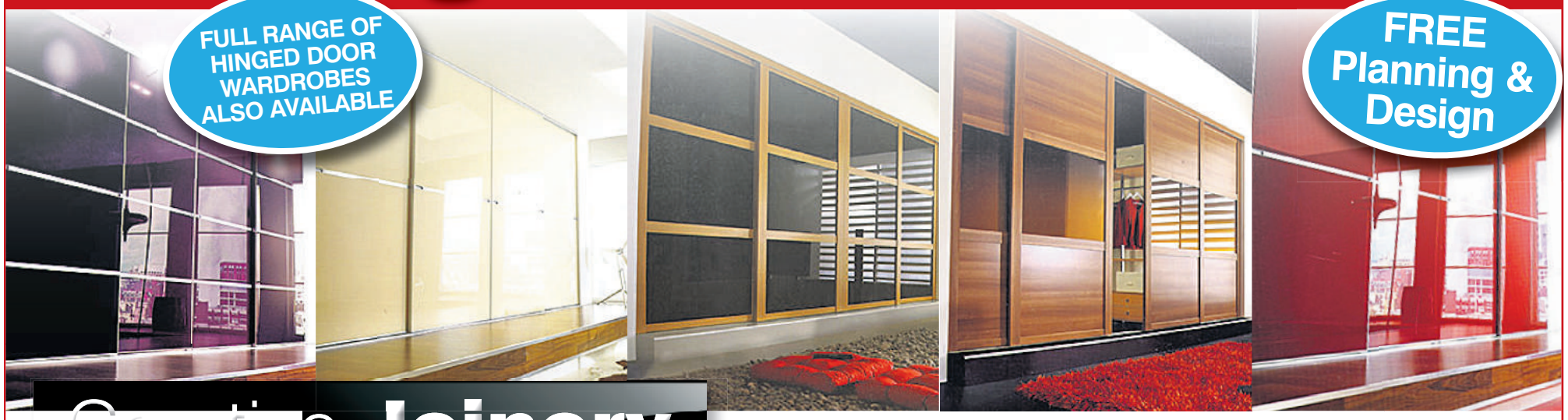

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MP pledges ongoing support for older people

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper met with older people from across the country at an 'Age Champions' event organised by charity Age UK, highlighting the challenges of an ageing population and opportunities in later life.

MPs heard how they can tackle issues affecting older people, including loneliness and isolation, social care and the importance of a decent income.

Rosie Cooper said: "The event was a brilliant opportunity to discuss the work they've done in the last year and set out an ambitious vision for the future. I was really encouraged to see so many other members taking these issues seriously and I hope that more of my colleagues will join me as an Age Champion MP.

"I've been championing older people's issues for the 12 years I've been an MP and I'm committed to continuing my efforts in West Lancashire. I'd urge any constituents who need support to get in touch with me about issues that affect you as an older person."

Care trust pioneers novel inclusion project for young mental health service users

LANCASHIRE Care's children and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) is pioneering a novel idea to promote inclusion and participation among young service users with learning disabilities or autism by including them on the interviewing panel for recruiting new members of staff.

Harry Henshaw, a student at Newman College in Preston and CAMHS service user, is now on the interviewing panel for new staff with the trust's CAMHS Tier 3 service. Harry, who has autism, underwent training with the service last summer along with a group of fellow service users to learn about recruitment and volunteering.

The 17-year-old said: "The support I've received from CAMHS has been useful. I underwent some training last summer and have found the entire process very interesting. I was a little bit anxious at first but the support and help I've received have helped me overcome this. Participating in interviews has made me feel confident and helped me interact with people. It has also allowed me to meet different people and deal with the challenges of that. It also compliments my work at college and my tutors there are helping me out."

Tracey Hartley-Smith from the learning disability and complex needs team at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "People with autism have many strengths and qualities through their honesty, reliability, attention to detail, determination, focus and unique insights of logic in a sometimes very illogical world. They can help us to be grounded and not over complicate matters. It is with this in mind that we've embarked on this pioneering piece of work.

"This is a really good way of getting insight into candidates and also instils confidence into the young people we work with. Allowing service users to volunteer in this way also enables them to get certificates and positions them for suitable future job opportunities."

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Jamie Carragher with some of the youngsters at St Bede's

Former Reds star Carra scores a winner with soccer school

FORMER Liverpool star Jamie Carragher teamed up with youngsters in Ormskirk when he brought his popular soccer schools session to a local high school.

The ex-Reds defender, who already runs his Jamie Carragher Soccer Schools in his home town, Bootle as well as Maghull, was trialling it at St Bede's Catholic High School in the last two weeks of August.

And it proved to be a big hit, with more than 70 children attending across the four days and Carragher himself dropping by to meet the youngsters.

Carragher is now planning to start a 'Monday Night Football' session at the school in St Anne's Road starting on September 25 from 6 to 7pm for children aged five to 12.

He said: "The positive feedback from the staff was pleasing to hear, having visited the camp and seeing the children enjoying themselves and having fun, development happens naturally in a safe and positive environment.

"We are now ready to launch our Monday Night Football at St Bede's and expect it to be very popular so we are capping the numbers and it will be a first come-first serve basis. But we will have reserves if people drop out."

To book a place, call academy director James Olsen on 07795 954 446.

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The award-winning garden inspired by the forests of Canada has been re-located to Martin Mere

Taste of great Canadian wilderness comes to Mere!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN award-winning garden inspired by the Canadian wilderness has been given a new home in West Lancashire.

Depicting the boreal forest and waterways of northern Ontario, the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Garden won a gold medal at the 2017 RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May.

It has now been relocated to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's wooded wetlands development at Martin Mere.

The garden has taken just over two months to be recreated at the centre in Burscough and was officially opened earlier this month.

Centre manager, Nick Brooks, said: "The garden has been relocated within Martin Mere's new wooded wetlands development which opened in August, 2016. The development showcases species and habitat found in the boreal and we were thrilled to receive the opportunity to give visitors a taste of the great Canadian wilderness right here in Lancashire.

"It really is an awe-inspiring garden and is going to be very popular with our visitors - we are very grateful to Royal Bank of Canada for continuing their long-standing support of WWT's wetland conservation."

WWT was the first UK beneficiary of a RBC Blue Water Grant eight years ago.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, and designer Charlotte Harris drew inspiration from the vast and ecologically vital boreal forest and freshwater lakes of Canada. The feeling of a Canadian boreal forest is brought to life by mature pines, glacial boulders and a copper-lined, burnt larch wood canopy reminiscent of wooden shelters created by hunters and travellers exploring the riverside.

She said: "Working on the Royal Bank of Canada Garden was my chance to bring a taste of Canada to Chelsea, and I'm thrilled that this garden has found a permanent home at the WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre."

Dave Thomas, chief executive of RBC's Capital Markets, Europe said: "This year's Royal Bank of Canada Garden celebrates our Canadian heritage and once again reinforces our long-standing commitment to water preservation. Congratulations to Charlotte and the team at Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust who were able to recreate the garden so quickly, providing an inspiring space for visitors for years to come."

The new attraction at Martin Mere involved a complete redevelopment of the North American area of the waterfowl gardens and features waterfowl species found in the boreal zone.

The development includes a waterfall pen which is home to buffleheads, a diving sea duck; a boardwalk through central pens accessible via a log cabin to see species such as trumpeter swan and Carolinas; the central lake that has canvasbacks on it and a tepee encampment demonstrating how indigenous people lived sustainably in wetlands.

The attraction was partly funded by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Care trust pilots new electronic patients record system

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust is working in partnership with Servelec Health and Social Care (HSC) to develop and implement a new electronic patient record system aimed at benefiting both patients and health professionals.

The system will be designed to support clinical staff to provide high-quality care, at the right time, every time, by enabling access to timely, accurate information about patients.

It will also aim to improve the safety of healthcare and support clinical decision-making.

The trust is currently working closely with Sevelec to understand the system capabilities and what is required for it to go live. As part of this process the trust will pilot the system with teams including the eating disorder service, learning disabilities service and the community neuro service.

Karen Sillett, learning disabilities service manager at the trust, said: "We are really excited to be piloting the new system. We anticipate benefits for both the staff delivering care and the people who are receiving it. Having an electronic system will make it easier to communicate with patients and help the service we provide to be more efficient and the highest quality.

"The system will support the delivery of combined physical and mental health care which is extremely important to people with a learning disability, to us as a service and as an organisation as a whole."

The trust is aiming to go live with the system early on next year.

The learning disabilities team at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

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Friendship group aim to strike out loneliness!

by **Danielle Thompson**

Members of the Oddfellows Southport and Ormskirk District branch enjoying a tea dance.

MEMBERS of a friendship group for Southport and Ormskirk residents are aiming to combat loneliness and isolation by going bowling!

The Oddfellows Southport and Ormskirk District branch, who look to involve as many people as possible in group activities and excursions, are celebrating their 'Friendship Month' initiative throughout September, which urges all members of the public to make new friends.

Their next event will be ten-pin bowling at Premier Bowl and Laser at the Ocean Plaza in Southport from 6pm on Thursday, September 28 and they are inviting anyone interested to call the group in advance to book a place.

Social events organiser for the group, Judith Caton, said: "Our Friendship Month campaign is in its eighth year now and it's our way of reminding people just how important it is to have the support of friends around you.

"They really do make the good times better and the hard times easier.

"Friendships often start as a result of sharing a fun experience or by learning something together and our events provide that opportunity in a really easy, relaxed way.

"We can't wait to welcome new faces at our events as we know there's nothing quite like sharing laughs and a brew in good company."

The society's members regularly get together to enjoy social events such as talks, trips out, lunches, coffee mornings and evening get-togethers.

To find out more or to book a place for the bowling event, call Judith on 01704 545279 or email Judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk.

Volunteers' 'Flag Day' collection raises £400 for lifeboat charity

A 'FLAG Day' collection by volunteers from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) around Ormskirk town centre on Thursday, September raised a total of £403.71.

A spokesperson for the Ormskirk branch of the charity said: "We would like to say thank-you to everybody who gave and made contributions."

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Animal Magic returns to wetland centre

MARTIN Mere Wetland Centre in Burscough is throwing open its doors on Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24 for its annual wildlife spectacular, Animal Magic.

Working with Exotic Zoo, regularly featured on the TV programme Blue Peter, Animal Magic is the centre's most popular family event, with more than 5,000 people attending last year.

Visitors this year will have the chance to: meet a baby crocodile and an armadillo; go on a donkey ride; see wallabies and meerkats; hug a greyhound; watch Asian short-clawed otters and pygmy goats play; get close to a variety of birds of prey; or be scared by lots of reptiles and insects.

Most of the displays will be indoors.

Centre manager, Nick Brooks, said: "Animal Magic is our most popular family event at the centre.

"We always try to stage events that provide a fantastic opportunity for our visitors to experience something new; where you can get very close to or stroke animals such as an armadillo and meerkats at one event.

"You can see all kinds of animals you probably wouldn't come across in your day-to-day life and it is amazing to see so many children enjoy the experience."

During the weekend people can have a go at free pond dipping at the Pond House to see what creatures visitors can see in the ponds.

There will also be a range of family craft activities for children between 11am and 4pm, some of which may include a small charge.

People can also have a go on the award-winning canoe safari and boat tour experience, as well as building dens out of conifer and exploring the new adventure play area.

The event is taking place from 10am to 4pm.

A young visitor enjoys last year's Animal Magic event at Martin Mere

History group's new programme unveiled

ORMSKIRK Historical Society has announced its programme for its forthcoming 61st season, starting on Monday, October 2 at 7.30pm with a talk entitled *Forgotten Liverpool: Merchant Palaces and Personalities.*

This is being presented by Stephen Guy, local historian and chairman of West Derby Society, and takes a look at some of his favourite historic buildings in Liverpool and looking at how the city's tide of wealth transformed a backwater into one of the world's leading ports.

The next meeting on Monday, October 16 will see Pauline Hurst from St Helens Family History Society giving a talk on the history of Haydock Lodge Asylum and how an 1840s scandal changed the way mental health patients would be treated in the future.

The society meets at the Four Lane Ends Mission, Skelmersdale Road, Bickerstaffe.

New members, visitors and students alike are welcome. Annual subscription is £16 but if you only want to attend selected lectures, the fee is £3 per lecture, free for students.

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County's renewed appeal for more adoptive parents

Loving, permanent homes needed for youngsters unable to live with their birth families

LANCASHIRE County Council is once again inviting anyone thinking about starting or growing their family through adoption to an information evening to find out more.

The event will be held on Tuesday, October 3 at County Hall, Preston, from 6 to 7.30pm.

Following a short presentation, members of the county council's adoption team, including social workers, will be available to answer questions, talk you through the process and offer confidential advice.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We need people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"You must be over 21, and live in Lancashire or close by, but whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status, we want to hear from you.

"What matters to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond."

Adoptive parents are needed for children from young babies up to eight years of age, and particularly people willing to keep families together by adopting siblings.

Brothers and sisters are among the children who wait longest to be adopted, as there are not enough people coming forward who are able to give them a safe, permanent and loving family.

Among the 100 Lancashire children currently ready to be adopted, there are 13 two-sibling groups and five three-sibling groups.

Cllr. Charles added: "I'm hoping that we can encourage people to at least think about adopting two or more children.

"We keep brothers and sisters together whenever we can. For children who cannot be brought up by their own parents, those sibling relationships take on extra importance. In the midst of the trauma and losses these children experience, being placed with a brother or sister can be an important source of comfort and support, and give them the opportunity to grow up together.

"However, we know that adopting siblings might not be for everyone, and we still need adopters to come forward to look after children of all different ages and circumstances."

Adoptive parents are also needed to come forward for children from young babies up to eight years of age, and particularly for the following groups:

- Children aged over four, either gender
- Children with special needs, disabilities or unpredictable medical issues
- Boys of all ages
- Mixed-heritage children of all ages

Further details about the information evening and adoption in general are available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or by calling the adoption team on 0300 123 6723.

There's no need to book for the adoption information evening, you can just turn up.

Free parking is available next to County Hall, and the Pitt Street entrance has disabled accessible.

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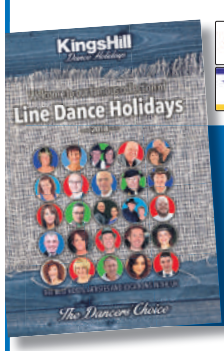

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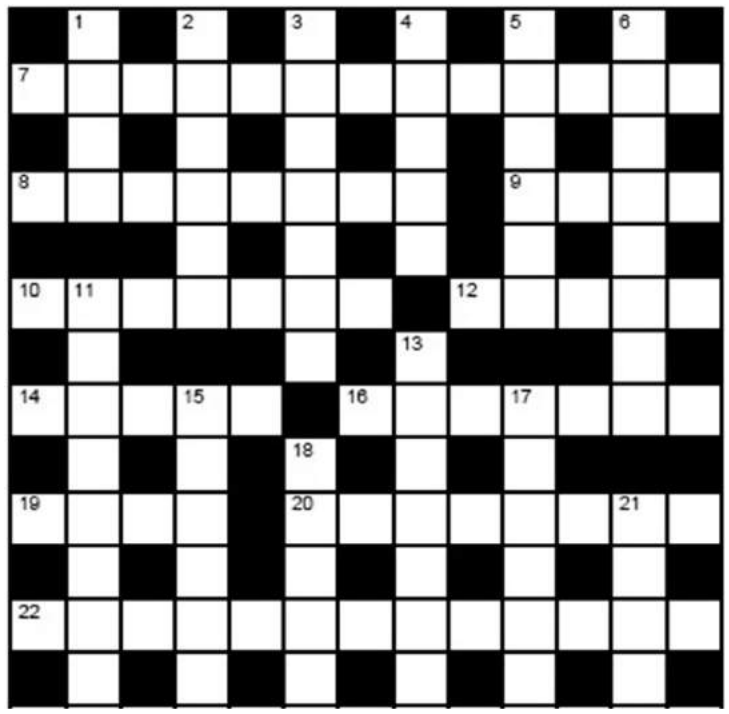

ACROSS

7. Part of the endocrine system that secretes hormones directly into the bloodstream (8, 5)
8. Device that reduces documents to small, unreadable strips (8)
9. Main body or stalk of a plant or shrub (4)
10. Thick, flat, savoury cake with soft, porous texture, eaten toasted and buttered (7)
12. Condition of something at a specific time (5)
14. Period of time in history (5)
16. When water flows away from the shore (3, 4)
19. Killer whale (4)
20. Exercises (5-3)
22. Nouns, verbs, adjectives etc. (5, 2, 6)

DOWN

1. Shove (4)
2. Small narrow river (6)
3. Salt lake on the border between Israel and Jordan (4, 3)
4. Money lending at extortionate rates (5)
5. Cupboard or wardrobe, especially one tall enough to walk into (6)
6. Owing money or gratitude (8)
11. Relating to or situated on the banks of a river (8)
13. Side of a coin or medal bearing the head or principal design (7)
15. Talkative (6)
17. Tuft of loosely hanging thread attached for decoration to soft furnishings or clothing (6)
18. Cutlery item (5)
21. Hard rubber disc used in ice hockey (4)

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Unshod. 8. Tipple. 9. Loom. 10. Inviting. 11. Abdomen. 13. Petty. 15. Ready. 17. Hoedown. 20. Blinkers. 21. Trip. 22. Sierra. 23. Rebuke.
Down: 1. Entomb. 2. Sham. 3. Adviser. 4. Stove. 5. Spot-weld. 6. Planet. 12. Ordinary. 14. Tonsure. 16. Eclair. 18. Whisky. 19. Delay. 21. Tuba.

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Beautiful - The Carole King Musical to make its first visit to city

Report by **Henry James**

THE hit production, Beautiful - The Carole King Musical will perform for one week only at the Liverpool Empire Theatre from May 1 – 5 2018.

The producers of the show said: "We are truly thrilled that Beautiful will be touring the UK next year. The response from audiences in London was amazing. We know that the rest of the country will take this great show with the most wonderful songs to its heart."

Bronté Barbé will play Carole King in the UK and Ireland tour of the Olivier, Tony and Grammy award-winning Beautiful – The Carole King Musical.

Bronté will be joined by Kane Oliver Parry as King's husband and song-writing partner Gerry Goffin, Amy Ellen Richardsonas songwriter Cynthia Weil, Matthew Gonsalves as songwriter Barry Mann, Carol Royle as King's mother Genie Klein and Adam Howden as music publisher and producer Donnie Kirshner. At certain performances, Carole King will be played by Leigh Lothian.

Long before she was Carole King, the chart-topping music legend, she was an ordinary girl with an extraordinary talent.

A scene from Beautiful - The Carole King Musical. Photo by Birgit & Ralf Brinkhoff

Beautiful – The Carole King Musical tells the true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation, with countless classics such as: You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman, Take Good Care of my Baby, You've Got a Friend, So Far Away, It Might As Well Rain Until September, Up on the Roof, and Locomotion. The show also includes the Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann hit songs: You've Lost That Loving Feeling, On Broadway and We Gotta Get Out Of This Place.

Beautiful – The Carole King Musical is based on the early life and career of legendary singer/ songwriter Carole King. It has a book by Douglas McGrath with words and music by Gerry Goffin, Carole King, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil.

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Touring show charts duo's massive success

HAS it really been 50 years since the most successful Folk/Rock Duo of all time recorded their first no1 hit single The Sound of Silence?

Following it's West End success at the Leicester Square Theatre, London, The Simon and Garfunkel Story is currently the biggest and the most successful No 1 International touring theatre show celebrating the lives and career of Folk/Rock sensation Simon and Garfunkel.

Featuring a full cast of talented West End actor- musicians, The Simon and Garfunkel Story takes you back through the 'Groovy' times of the 1960s. It tells the story of both Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel from their humble beginnings as Rock 'n' Roll duo Tom and Jerry, right through their massive success, dramatic break-up and finishing with a stunning recreation of the 1981 Central Park reformation concert.

The Simon and Garfunkel Story is coming to Southport

Using a huge projection screen, the show features 1960's photos and film footage while a full live band perform all their hits including Mrs Robinson, Cecilia, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Homeward Bound, Sound of Silence and many more.

The Simon and Garfunkel Story will be at Southport theatre on Saturday, September 23.

Entertainments

FUNCTION ROOMS

The Aughton Institute

Afternoon Cabaret

Return Of The Fantastic Female Vocalist

Julie Gold

Plus:
Back by popular demand,
The very funny comedian

Carl Schofield

Sun 1st Oct 2017

2pm till 6pm

Includes Plate Of Sandwiches

Tickets £10

Contact Louise for Tickets 07749 053 323 or the club on 01695 422 688

Aughton Institute, Bold Lane, Aughton, L39 6SG

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THEATRES

WHAT'S ON 2017

September

NIGHTS ON BROADWAY - THE BEE GEES STORY
Friday 15th

DINOSAUR WORLD
Wednesday 20th - Thursday 21st

T.REXTASY
Friday 22nd

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY
Saturday 23rd

THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
Friday 29th

KING OF POP - THE LEGEND CONTINUES
Saturday 30th

October

JOE LONGTHORNE (rearranged date)
Wednesday 4th

THE ELO EXPERIENCE
Friday 6th

SHOWADDYWADDY
Saturday 7th

THE WIZARD OF OZ
The perfect half term treat!
Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th

FASTLOVE - A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL
Friday 27th

THE SOLID GOLD ROCK N ROLL SHOW featuring MARTY WILDE, EDEN KANE, MIKE BERRY, MARK WYNTER and THE WILDCATS
Tuesday 31st

November

JOHN MAYALL IN CONCERT
Wednesday 1st

MIDGE URE, THE CHRISTIANS, ALTERED IMAGES
Saturday 4th

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN
Thursday 11th

BOWIE EXPERIENCE - THE GOLDEN YEARS TOUR
Saturday 11th

THE WORLD FAMOUS ELVIS SHOW
Friday 17th

DR HOOK FEATURING DENNIS LOCORRIERE
Saturday 18th

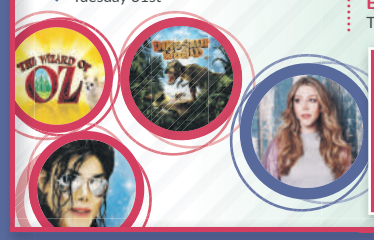
JIMMY CARR - THE ULTIMATE, GOLD, GREATEST HITS TOUR
Tuesday 21st

ISLANDS IN THE STREAM
Thursday 23rd

THE SENSATIONAL 60's EXPERIENCE – MIKE PENDER, CHRIS FARLOWE, HERMAN'S HERMITS, THE FORTUNES and NEW AMEN CORNER
Friday 24th

KEN DODD HAPPINESS SHOW
Saturday 25th

ROY WOOD ROCK & ROLL BAND
Thursday 30th



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KATHERINE RYAN: GLITTER ROOM
Sat 24th March

Southport Theatre & Convention Centre

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• Lift • Car Park (fee) • Entertainment
2 FOR 1 BAR DEALS 6-9pm selected dates

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
15, 22, 29 Sep	18, 25 Sep
6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov
from £79.95	from £159.95

Hacketts Hotel
Blackpool
• Lift • Car Park • Entertainment
★Seafront hotel close to North Pier★

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
15, 22, 29 Sep	18, 25 Sep
6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov
from £55	from £99.95

2/4 Nights from £55

Blackpool Illuminations 1 Sep-5 Nov

Scarborough

Clifton Hotel
Scarborough
• Overlooking North Bay • Lift • Car Park (fee)
2 FOR 1 BAR DEALS 6-9pm selected dates

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
15, 22, 29 Sep	18, 25 Sep
6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov
from £79.95	from £119.95

Royal Hotel
Scarborough
• Lift • Indoor Pool • Town Centre
★Famous hotel with sea views★

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
15, 22 Sep	18, 25 Sep
6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov
from £89.95	from £159.95

2/4 Nights from £79.95

Llandudno

GALA CABARET SHOW Risboro Hotel
All dates! 3 course candlelit dinner, background singing followed by fabulous cabaret. Also free tea and biscuits on Thursday and Saturday afternoon

1/2/3/4 Nights from £29.95

Risboro Hotel
Tastefully furnished hotel, ideally positioned a short stroll from the pier, central shopping area and Great Orme Tram Station.Lift. Car Park. Entertainment. Indoor Pool.

★1 Night Arrive Sunday	★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★3 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £29.95	from £49.95	from £79.95	from £129.95
1, 15 Oct	15 Sep, 6, 13 Oct	16, 23 Feb 2018	18, 25 Sep
12, 19, 26 Nov	3, 10, 24 Nov	9, 16, 23, 30 Mar	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
17 Dec	1, 8, 15 Dec	6, 13, 20, 27 Apr	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov
18, 25 Feb 2018	26 Jan, 2 Feb		4, 11 Dec

Ambassador Hotel
Owned by three generations of the Williams family, the Ambassador is a uniquely sited traditional hotel, siutated on the promenade close to many attractions. Seafront. Lift. Car Park (fee).

★1 Night Arrive Sunday	★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★3 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £34.95	from £69.95	from £99.95	from £129.95
17, 24 Sep	15, 22, 29 Sep	15, 22, 29 Sep	18, 25 Sep
1, 8, 15, 22 Oct	6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
5, 12, 19, 26 Nov	3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov
3, 10, 17 Dec	1, 8, 15 Dec	1, 8, 15 Dec	4, 11 Dec

Christmas/Yuletide /New Year from £89.95

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from £39.95	£79.95
17, 24 Sep	18, 25 Sep
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
5, 12, 19, 26 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov

Derwentwater Hotel
Keswick
• Stunning Lake Views • Car Park
★A Coast & Country Hotel★

★3 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £155	from £199
15, 22, 29 Sep	18, 25 Sep
6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov

Britannia Hotel, Bramhope
Nr Harrogate
• Lift • Car Park • Indoor Pool
★2 for 1 BAR DEALS 6pm-9pm selected dates★

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
£85	£139.95
15, 22, 29 Sep	18, 25 Sep
6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
3*, 10*, 17*, 24* Nov	6*, 13*, 20*, 27* Nov

Glen Usk Hotel
Llandrindod Wells
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15, 22, 29 Sep	18, 25 Sep
6, 13, 20, 27 Oct	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct
3, 10, 17, 24 Nov	6, 13, 20, 27 Nov

THEATRES

Southport Dramatic Club

Agatha Christie's

And Then There Were None

Directed by Celia Timmington

22nd - 30th September 2017

7.30pm

By special arrangement with Samuel French

tripadvisor ★★★★★ tripadvisor rating

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Home of the Southport Dramatic Club

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*Cruise on Lake Windermere
*Excursions
*Coach Travel

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Cumbria Grand Hotel
*visit Grassington Dickensian Festival &
*Skipton Medieval Festival

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BODELWYDDAN
Mon 9th October
5 days £309
LITTLECOTE HOUSE
Mon 30th October
5 days £339
HOLME LACY
Mon 6th November
5 days £339
BEMBRIDGE
Fri 3rd November
4 days only £189
NORTON GRANGE
Mon 13th November
5 days £269 (drinks inc)

FESTIVE BREAK LAKE DISTRICT
Mon 20th November
5 Days £199
*4 nights DBB (Shap Wells Hotel)
*Entertainment
*Excursions

EDINBURGH CHRISTMAS MARKET
Sun 26th November
3 Days £149
Price includes:
*2 nights Bed & Breakfast (Ibis Hotel, Edinburgh Centre)
* Luxury Coach Travel
* Reserved seats on coach

September/October Day Excursions

Tue 19th	Settle & Carlisle Railway *inc train*	£36.90
Sat 23rd	Blackpool & Tour of Illuminations	£14.90
Mon 25th	Boundary Mill for Autumn Launch Event	£12.90
Wed 27th	City of York	£15.90
Fri 29th	Emmerdale Studio Experience *inc admission*	£33.90
Sat 30th	City of Oxford	£19.90
Sun 1st	Haverthwaite Railway, Lake Cruise & Bowness *inc*	£26.90
Tue 3rd	Skipton, Embsay Railway & Bolton Abbey *inc guide*	£26.90
Thu 5th	Oswaldtwistle Mill, Funday Fortunes *inc lunch & ent.*	£26.90
Sun 8th	Welsh Alpine Circular & Snowdon Mountain Railway *inc*	£36.90
Tue 10th	Colwyn Bay & Llandudno	£13.90
Sat 14th	Blackpool & Tour of Illuminations	£14.90

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USUAL MENUS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD.
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Chris Stewart
The King of Swing & Rock n Roll

Saturday 2nd December
Miss Claudia Ann
Talented Little Diva with toe tapping tunes from the 70's & 80's

Friday 8th December
Miss Claudia Ann
Talented Little Diva with toe tapping tunes from the 70's & 80's

Saturday 9th December
Chris Stewart
The King of Swing & Rock n Roll

Friday 15th December
Max Peters
From rat pack to Billy Joel & Robbie Williams, Max is sure to entertain you

Friday 16th December
Max Peters
From rat pack to Billy Joel & Robbie Williams, Max is sure to entertain you

Friday 22nd December
Miss Claudia Ann
Talented Little Diva with toe tapping tunes from the 70's & 80's

Saturday 23rd December
Chris Stewart
The King of Swing & Rock n Roll

Sunday 31st December
New Years Eve Gala Dinner with
Max Peters
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SAFETY SHOES Men's, Dunlop steel toecap,size 9 (43), brand new, never worn £15 07986 135173

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CLOTHING

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SAMSUNG S5830I Galaxy Ace 2 Smartphone, White, unlocked, good condition and full working order, box, charger £65 01704831977

DIY

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DIY

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GARDENING TOOLS fork, spade, 2 rakes, lawn edging shears, plus hedge cutting shears £15 the lot 01704 876855

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SIDE OR coffee table .Chrome with glass top.60cm square, Cost over £100 accept £25 ono. Immaculate.Rufford 01704 821720 or 07966101288

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LOVELY MIRROR with hard wood surround 27" x 16" £10. 16" Table fan £15 01704 570374

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4 SEATER fabric sofa with leather base and armrests on black, brown cushions, originally Furniture Village, £100 buyer collects, Crosby area 07958 654317

SETTEES Green soft leather 3 seater and 2 seater, good condition, £250 for both, will split, bargain. 01704 260906 or 07860 666955

LEATHER COUCH dark brown, excellent condition £200. Josette Laura Ashley duck egg curtains, £75, never been used 07860 645878

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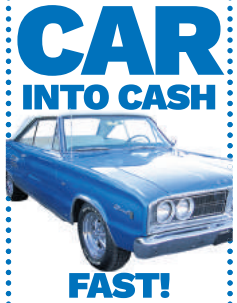

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Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SHARROCK JAMES

Susan and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, sympathy cards, flowers and donations for the M.S. Society received during their recent sad loss.

Special thanks to Deacon McDermott for his kind ministrations and to Melanie Hardman and staff of H Hardman & Co Independent Family Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

RIMMER DEREK

Ann and Deborah would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours, for all the messages of condolence, sympathy cards, and donations for Cancer Research UK, received during their recent sad loss. Thanks also to John Milton for his kind words of comfort, and Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, for their dignified Funeral arrangements.

GILROY ANTHONY JAMES

The family of the late Tony Gilroy would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours, for the many messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations to Macmillan. Special thanks to all that attended the funeral service and to Sandra Howles who delivered a warm, heartfelt eulogy. Thanks also to H Leslie Humphrey funeral directors for their kind support and dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LLOYD DORIS MARY

The family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the support shown and generous donations given for RSPB. Sincere thanks to Andy Pugh for his thoughtful ministrations and to Auntie Bar for always being there. Finally grateful thanks to Derek Crawford of Howard's Funeral Directors for the professional funeral arrangements.

DEATHS

RIGBY ADA

Passed away
8th September 2017
Aged 80 years
of Lydiate

Dearly loved Wife of the late Charlie, devoted Mum of Gillian, Ian and Neil and much loved Grandma. Funeral Service and Interment at St. Thomas Church Lydiate, on Monday 18th September 2017 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to Margaret Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888

PUNSHON BRIAN

31st August 2017
Aged 81 years
Died suddenly in hospital

Beloved Husband of Janet. Father of Trudy, Rob and Andrea. Grandad to Dan, Kat, Gemma, Vicki, Dylan, Charlotte and Adam. Great Grandad to Rhys, Lewis and baby bump. Funeral Service and committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough L30 7PS on Thursday 14th September at 11.30am. Family flowers only by request of the family but donations gratefully received for Help for Heroes. Further enquiries please to Hunters of Ormskirk 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY 01695 572997.

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DEATHS

MAGUIRE PATRICK

3rd September 2017

Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family, aged 66 years

Loving Husband of Ann, devoted dad of Jennifer and Nicola, cherished Son, Son-in-law, Brother, Brother-in-law and Uncle, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 14th September at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel 01695 559868.

WALL BRIAN

3rd September 2017

Peacefully in hospital, aged 85 years

Loving Husband of the late Pat, devoted Dad of Maureen, David, Tricia and Bryan, dear Father-in-law of Lynne and a cherished Grandad and Great Grandad of all his grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 14th September at 10.45am. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel 01695 559868.

KENNARD VINCENT

2nd September 2017

Aged 87 years after a short illness

Devoted Husband of Margaret, much loved Father of Susan, Father-in-law of Stephen and loving Pop to Nicholas and Michael. Funeral service at St Lukes Church, Formby on Thursday September 14th 2017 at 2pm followed by burial at Birkdale Cemetery, Liverpool Road, Southport. No flowers please but donations if desired to either Cancer Research UK or the Alzheimers Society would be gratefully received c/o H Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel 0151 9244805.

DEATHS

ELLIS LEONARD THEODORE 'Tiny' Len

6th September 2017

Peacefully in Aughton Park Nursing Home

Aged 97

Much loved Husband of the late Kathleen Ellis and Father of Peter, Chris, Steve & Tracey. Father-In-Law of Sue, Bernard, Jean & Anne. Grandfather to Dawn, Lucy, Tom, Graham, Katie, Kate & Beth.
Also Great-Grandfather to Daniel, Josh, Nicole, Bonnie, Hattie, Jem, Charlie and Harry. His irreverent sense of humour will be much missed!
Funeral Service will take place at Christ Church, Aughton on Friday 22nd September 2017 at 11.00am. Family flowers only please. Donations gratefully received for The Alzheimers Society and The Royal British Legion.
All enquiries to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors Ltd, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Lancs, L39 5DZ. Tel: 01695 424888

JONES EILEEN

Passed away peacefully in Hospital on the 7th September 2017

Aged 78 years

Former Manager of Marshside Rest Home

Much loved Wife of Rodney. Dearly loved Mum of Graham (deceased), Gordon and Karen. Dear Mother-In-Law of John and Alison. Devoted Grandma of Lynsey, Emma, Mathew, Sam, Alex and Elizabeth. Precious Nana of Mollie, Abi, Connor and Kara. Eileen will be missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at Holy Trinity Parish Church Tarleton on Tuesday 19th September at 11.00am prior to interment at St Marys Old Churchyard. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Cancer Research UK. In memory of her Son, Graham. Enquiries to Neal Buckley Tarleton Funeral Home, 49 Church Road, Tarleton, PR4 6UQ Tel: 01772 301700

DEATHS

HARMER TINA CATHERINE

Died 11th September 2017

Aged 90 years

Passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family

Will be sadly missed by her Husband Eric will always love & miss you. Son Keith, Daughter Janet, Daughter-In-Law Sue, Son-In-Law Claudio and Grandchildren Melanie, Michelle, Natasha & Millie with all our love.
Funeral Service and Cremation at Southport Crematorium on Monday 18th September 2017 at 10.40am. The family would like to thank James Page Nursing Home who cared for Catherine. Family flowers only if desired, donations RNIB. All enquiries to Cravens Funeral Service, 44 Liverpool Rd, Lydiate, L31 2LZ Tel: 0151 531 7890 Where Catherine will be resting.

STUTTARD MICHAEL GEORGE

Passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice on 4th September 2017

Aged 85 years of Southport

Much loved Husband of Nina, Dearly loved Dad of David and Alison. Dear Father-In-Law of Paul and Cori.
Devoted Grandpa of Anna, Harry, Karris, Tayvis & Andris, dear Brother of Richard and the late John, Sister-In-Law of Janet and the late Paddy.
Loved and missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 15th September 2017 at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, L39 5DZ Tel: 01695 424888

DEATHS

CALCUTT FRANCES EVELYN

7th September 2017

Aged 87 Years

Devoted Wife of the late John, much loved Mum of Sue and loving Grandmother of John. Frances will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

"Absent from the body, home with the Lord"

Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 15th September at 9:20am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Dementia UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

Check out **champnews.com**

AUSTIN ERNEST CASEMENT

4th September 2017

Died suddenly at his home in Aughton

Ernest will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 18th September at 11.30am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to The RNLI. Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone: 01772 811165

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BOLGER LINDA

12th September 2016.

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xxx

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL LANE, APPLEY BRIDGE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Mill Lane, Appley Bridge from Appley Lane North to Wigan Boundary.

2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0800 hours until 1700 hours on 18/09/2017 until 27/09/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Appley Lane North – Skull House Lane – Mill Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/9189/SN]

Lancashire County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

M.Z.K. Trans Ltd. is applying for a licence to use Holland Moss Business Park, West Pimbo Road, Skelmersdale WN8 9PA as an operating centre for 2 trucks and 2 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATING LICENCE

Graylaw International Freight Group Ltd trading as Graylaw Freight Group of Gillibrands Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 8TA is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 3 vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre, Gillibrands Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 9TA. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2017/0876/FUL Erection of 45 dwellings, with associated access and landscaping and other ancillary works at Land To The West Of, Abbeystead, Digmoor.
Application No: 2017/0880/FUL Erection of 116 dwellings with associated access and landscaping and other ancillary works at Land Adjacent To The M58 Motorway, Chequer Lane, Up Holland.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
The application is accompanied by an environmental statement (a copy of which is available for inspection or purchase if required).

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/0769/LBC Listed Building Consent - Engineering works to include erection of retaining walls and terraces within the garden (retrospective) at Manor Cottage, Miry Lane, Parbold.
Application No: 2017/0770/FUL Engineering works to include erection of retaining walls and terraces within the garden (retrospective) at Manor Cottage, Miry Lane, Parbold.
Application No: 2017/0838/FUL Single storey extension to rear and internal alterations at The Old Barn House, Southport Road, Scarisbrick.
Application No: 2017/0873/FUL Proposed single storey extension to the front, to form porch and extend existing kitchen and utility at Willowbank, Lancaster Lane, Parbold.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 13th September 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT965

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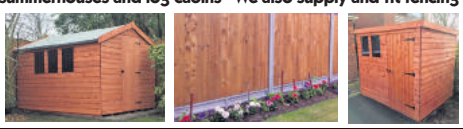

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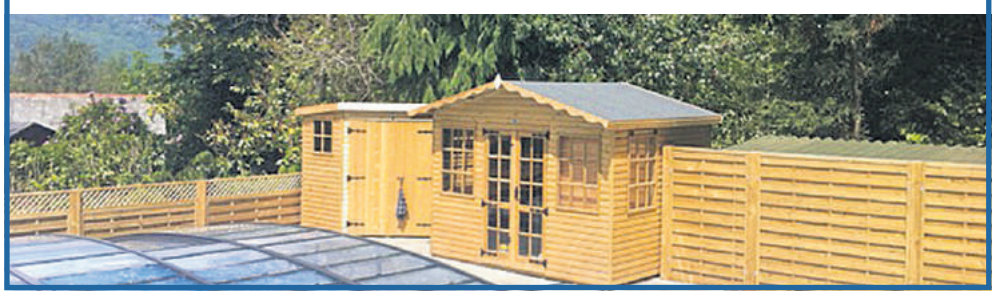

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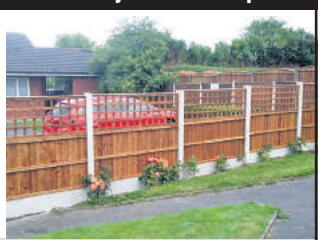

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THE NEW Ferrari FXX? Sorry, not really that fussed. The Aston Martin DB11 was lovely, but hardly astonishing. And I was a bit 'meh' about the McLaren 570S, to be honest.

I'm sure all three are resolutely thrilling on the right bit of racetrack but it's entirely forgivable to be a bit blasé.

We're used to seeing shiny new supercars from all three, all of which are a modicum more impressive than the last one.

It's a bit like Chelsea doing rather well in the Premier League – just like they did last year, and the year before that.

But a new TVR is more like Leicester thundering in and unexpectedly snatching all the silverware, against ridiculous odds.

The latest Griffith is the car that so many of us wanted to see, but none of us really believed was ever going to happen. Only that last Friday, after more than a decade of waiting, it did.

Barely a week in and there have already been plenty of comments that it doesn't look bonkers enough to be a TVR – even I think it's got shades of Jaguar F-type, but that's hardly a bad thing.

Sensible

It's also been fitted with ABS and a sophisticated power steering system but otherwise it's business as usual for a car-maker that's crafted its reputation on being ballsy where everyone else plays safe.

It has a V8 not a million miles from what you'll find in a Ford Mustang but it's been breathed on by Cosworth so it's developing something in the region of 500bhp, with a Porsche-troubling power-to-weight ratio of around 400bhp per tonne.

Gordon Murray – of McLaren F1 and Mercedes SLR fame – has helped out with the underpinnings, so it shouldn't drive like an old-school TVR. It'll be much better than that!

Even the Griffith's launch makes it loveable.

TVR could've done the sensible thing and flown out to Frankfurt, where everyone else is unveiling their new metal at the moment, but it decided instead to do it at the Goodwood Revival, a classic car event known for being consciously stuck in the 1960s.

It's emphatically not the place to launch a brand new car – but TVR did it anyway.

In fact the only thing that's missing from this curiously British resurrection is the old Blackpool factory being brought back into action and giving Lancashire its sports car crown back, but that would be far too predictable for the new boys at TVR.

So they've decided to build it in a small town in Wales instead.

There you have it – Ebbw Vale is Britain's answer to Maranello…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly.

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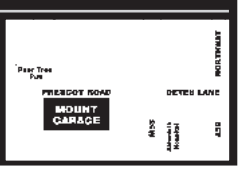

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Ormskirk get league break to focus on National Cup

ORMSKIRK'S final home league match has been cancelled at the league's discretion to allow Matt Glayzer's team to travel down to Chelmsford to take on Wanstead and Snaresbrook in the final of the National Club Championship at Essex CCC on Sunday.

They were due to face Leigh next Saturday who have already qualified for next season's Lancashire Knockout.

Ormskirk had their match at New Brighton last Saturday abandoned without a ball being bowled and are now free to concentrate solely on Sunday's match at Chelmsford.

Last Sunday's rearranged Lancashire KO Final at Blackpool between Lowerhouse and Ormskirk was another match to fall victim of the weather and with no suitable date to try and play the match again available, the Lancashire Cricket Board took the decision for both clubs to share the trophy.

One round of matches remain in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition as another season comes to an end this Saturday with Ainsdale, Formby and Southport & Birkdale battling hard for top flight survival,

Southport & Birkdale go into the final weekend of the season with the hope of staying up after a one wicket home win over sixth placed Northern, with Chris Laker scoring 47, Liam Grey 33 and Justin Snow 32*.

In reply, Tom Sephton's 6-72 wasn't quite enough as Chris Brownlow 47, Brad Yates 21 and an unbeaten last wicket stand of 52 from Angus Gailey 43* and Andy Warhurst 11* led S&B to a thrilling victory on 163-9.

Third placed Bootle had a six wicket win at Lytham, the hosts took 49.2 overs to reach 149-9 declared with Ryan Maddock top scoring with 48, whilst Will Purser took 4-56 with the ball. In reply, Lancashire's Luke Procter remained unbeaten on 41 and Neil Williams hit 40 as Bootle sealed victory on 150-4 enabled the visitors to declare on 160-4.

Ainsdale also go into the final weekend with survival in the top flight still an option after a 14 run home win over Wallasey, once again Faiz Fazal led from the front with an unbeaten 135* which included 7x4 & 8x6 and took him past the milestone of 1,000 league runs for the campaign, he was ably backed up by Mark Lucas with 54 as the hosts declared on 223-3

In reply, 5-26 and a hat trick from Joe Lowe and 3-62 from Sam White helped bowl out the visitors for 209, with Andrew Ward scoring 78.

Formby are still in the relegation dogfight after a six wicket home defeat by Colwyn Bay.

● **IN the First Division, Burscough's home match against Sefton Park was abandoned. They visit Hightown St Mary's on Saturday.**

Skelmersdale suffred a nine wicket defeat to Rainford after being skittled out for just 54 with Anthony Pickavance top scoring with 20, the only batsmen to make double figures.

Brave Linnets narrowly lose out in five goal thriller to league leaders

Runcorn Town 3
Burscough 2

BURSCOUGH came close to winning their first game of the season in a thrilling encounter against the runaway league leaders, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

Runcorn Town started the day on a maximum 18 points from the opening six games of the season.

The hosts set off confidently and put the pressure on Dave Sutton's Linnets from the off, but Burscough can be a resilient bunch on their day and they held on well for the first half-hour.

Runcorn finally found a chink in Burscough's armour on 33 minutes. Mike Carberry did well down the left-wing for Runcorn and his cross skimmed into the goalmouth, Simon Thelwell made himself space and clinically slid the ball home from close range.

Burscough bounced back only 11 minutes later. Under pressure from the Burscough forwards, a ball down the pitch wasn't dealt with by the Town defence and a poor clearance was pounced on by Adam Gilchrist, who levelled with a low shot that left home goalkeeper Andy Metcalfe floundering.

Action from the game at Hyde.

Gilchrist has been missing from the Burscough line-up for the whole of August because of injury and he showed just why his experience will make a difference to Burscough's forward threat.

After 54 minutes Burscough really had something to hold onto. A foul in the penalty area saw the referee point to the spot, up stepped Burscough's Alex Parkes and the former Oldham Athletic player put his kick just inside the upright to make it 2-1 to the Linnets.

With their 100% record at stake, naturally Runcorn piled on the pressure, but again Burscough fended off their best efforts.

However, as the game entered the last quarter-hour Runcorn found a way through via a set piece. Runcorn won a free-kick just outside the penalty area, Thelwell is the club captain and in his club's hour of need he saved them, sending a swirling left-foot free-kick past goalkeeper Louis McCarthy.

You had to feel sorry for Burscough when just seven minutes from the end Runcorn went back into the lead. Mark Reed sent in a cross from the right-wing, Craig Cairns latched onto it and dispatched a powerful shot at goal that was almost kept out by McCarthy.

There was simply no way back for Burscough, it had been a brave effort that was cruelly thwarted. A repeat of this performance will surely see Burscough pick up points very soon.

Skem undone by poor second half performance

Skelmersdale United 2
Hyde United 0

TWO second-half goals saw ten-man Skem lose out to promotion candidates Hyde.

Both teams struggled to make opportunities in the first-half at Stormy Corner with defences at both ends on top, but three minutes into the second-half Hyde scored.

The situation got worse midway through the half when the experienced Gareth Roberts was dismissed for a second yellow card reducing Skem to ten men, before a goal seven minutes from full-time saw the visitors confirmed winners.

There few highlights in a closely fought opening 45 minutes and the second-half generated more talking points.

Hyde's 48th minute opener began with an enterprising 70 yard run by Luke Porritt, the number eleven initially taking possession on the edge of the Hyde penalty area, his deep cross was played back to Tom Pratt, who in turn rolled it into the path of an on rushing Big Khamsuk, who smashed a low shot just inside the post.

Khamsuk almost had another goal soon afterwards but Skelmersdale goalkeeper Jack Sims made a good save.

Things got worse for Skem when Gareth Roberts was dismissed for a second yellow card after a foul just outside the penalty area.

Skelmersdale started to press more for an equaliser, Andy Owens putting one shot fizzing just wide of the post after Brodie had set him up with a flicked on header.

Seven minutes from time Hyde Porritt on the left who had caused problems all afternoon with his ability to run at defenders only this time he was presented with his chance by Sutherland who had dribbled across the face of the Skem defence, running in from the left Porritt hit a first-time left foot strike low across Sims into the far corner.

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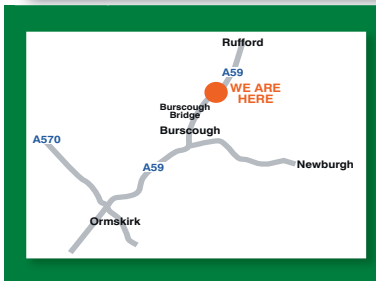

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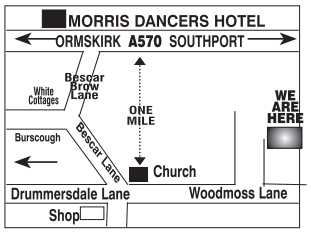

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